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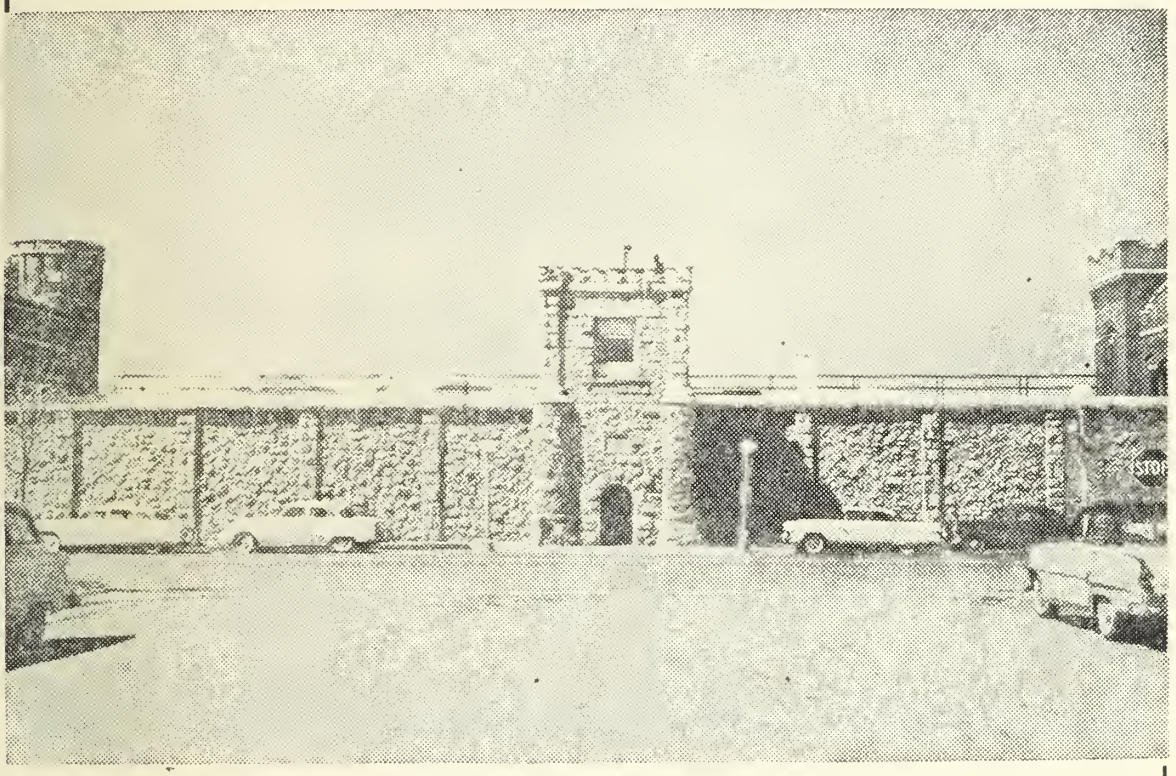
MONTANA STATE PRISON



DEER LODGE,
MONTANA

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PREFACE

This booklet has been prepared to acquaint the public with the operation of the Montana State Prison, also, as a souvenir for our visitors. In it we have given a brief history of the Prison from 1869 to 1956; the outline of the mode of living and training given the inmates.

Any inmate may further his formal elementary or High School education by taking a correspondence course given by the Montana State University at no cost except for his own supplies. We try to teach all inmates a method of earning their own living and instill in them the satisfaction of doing their work in a good workmanlike manner, for a good workman is always in demand.

Catholic and Protestant services are held every Sunday, and, although not compulsory, attendance at religious services is encouraged.

We always refrain from giving any promise to an inmate that we cannot fulfill. Also, when the answer to a question is "no," we expect the inmate to understand this is final. Most inmates start with a juvenile delinquent record. All of us should assist our youth in securing a good education, religious training and in developing good wholesome habits during leisure hours.

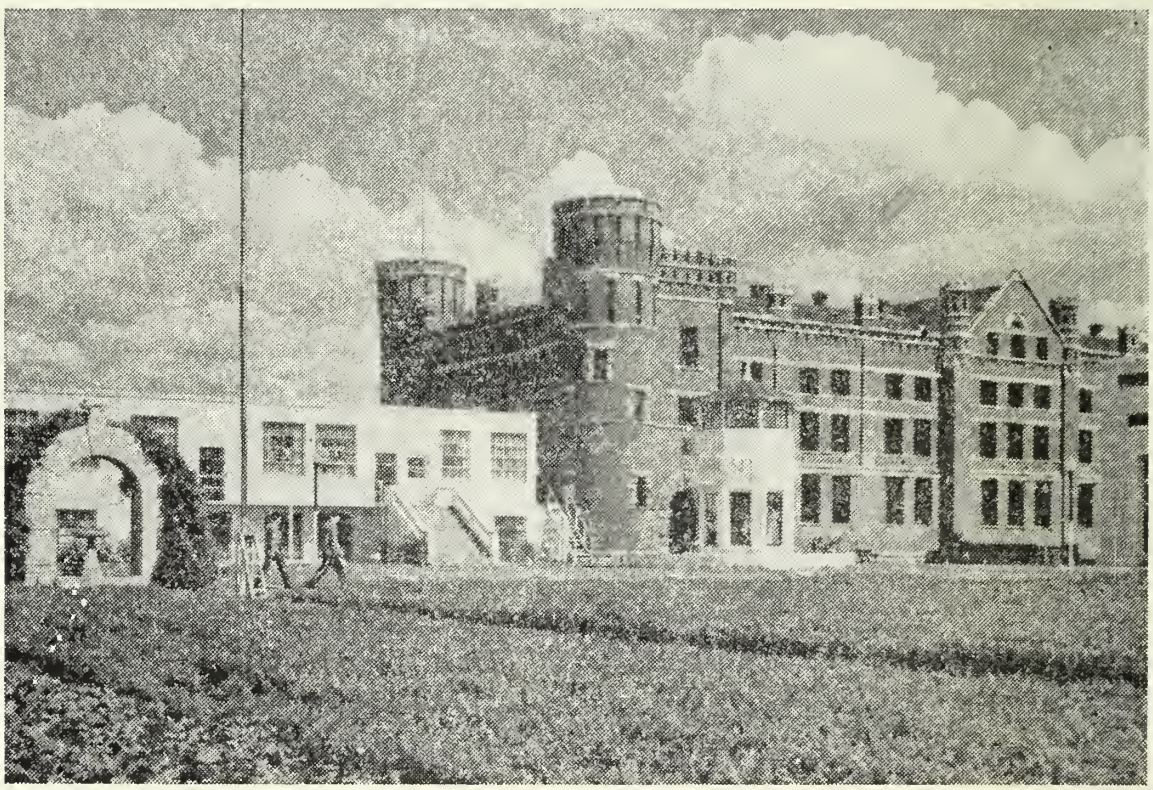
It is our hope that when inmates are released they will not return but will become good and useful citizens of the State of Montana and the nation. We believe that every person in prison work takes pleasure in and points with pride to any inmate who leaves their institution and makes good.

F. O. BURRELL, Warden
Montana State Prison

Montana State Prison

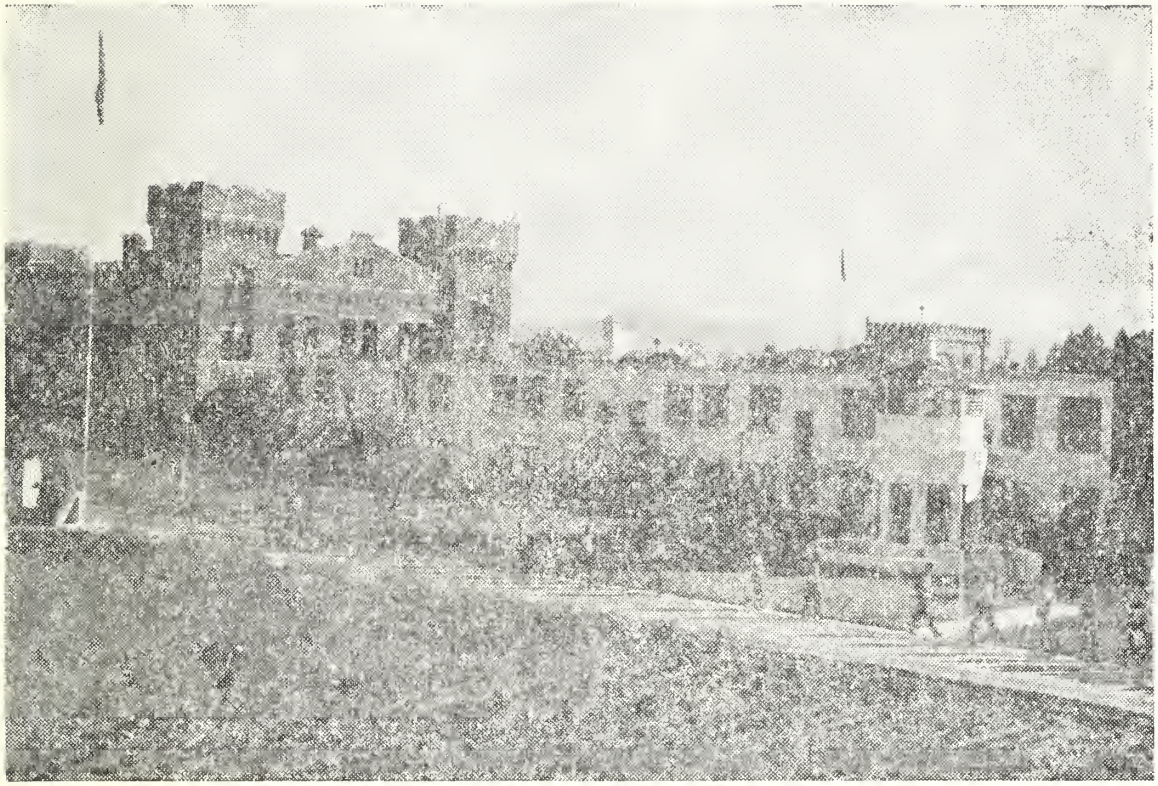
The Prison at Deer Lodge was started in 1869, five years after the area became a Territory and 20 years before the Territory became a State. The year 1869 marks the first "drive" of cattle from Texas to Montana.

The only part of the original Prison building still standing is an archway that was over the doorway to the old dining room.



OLD CELL HOUSE AND ARCHWAY

The Prison wall was built in 1893, it is 18' to 22' high and about 40" wide. What is now known as the old wing was built in 1896, and what is now referred to as the New Wing was built in 1912. The inside administration building which houses the shoe shop, garment factory, toy shop, laundry and clothes room, as well as the inside offices, was built in 1931. Prison officers walk the Prison wall from tower to tower, while carrying on their regular duties, and when changing shifts.



NEW CELL HOUSE & INSIDE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

The first record of any prisoner which can be located shows that Samuel E. Hughes was received at the Prison on July 2, 1871, to serve a one year sentence for the crime of assault with intent to kill. The record further reveals that he was pardoned by the Territorial Governor on July 25th of the same year.

In the past thirty years, 1926 to 1955 the number of inmates in the Montana State Prison has varied according to the social and economic conditions within the State and the nation. In the pre-depression years, 1926 to 1928, the number of inmates in the prison averaged 442 men. During the years of the great depression, 1930 to 1938, the prison population, as in other States, increased rapidly. From 1928 to 1931 the population at the Prison increased from 471 to 721 or 53 per cent in three years. After this high point the number declined and remained at about the 500 level until 1942, the second year of World War II for the United States. During the war years the number of inmates decreased sharply, reaching the lowest level of 342 in 1945 and 1946. The average number of inmates for the thirty year period was 524 prisoners.

In the post-war years the prison population increased sharply to 584 in 1950 and finally to 674 in 1955, or 57 less than the high point in 1931. These variations in prison population have taken place during the years when the total population in Montana increased from 537,606 in 1930, to 591,-024 in 1950, or about 10 per cent.

Montana has, on the basis of prisoner per 100,000 population, about the same number as other states in the nation, but fewer than Wyoming and Colorado.

Over the quarter century the Courts of Montana have committed an average of 300 persons to the Prison each year, whereas, in the same period the prison has released about the same number.

In 1950 the Montana State Prison had a total of 62 full time employees, or a ratio of 9.6 prisoners per employee. The ratio of prisoners to staff was higher than for the nation which was 6.4, and higher than other states in the west, (7.2).

The number of employees at the Prison has been increased somewhat, but we find that we are still understaffed in comparison to other prisons in the northwest.

On June 1st, 1956, Montana State Prison had 570 inmates and 75 employees. Increase of employees over the number in 1950 was chiefly brought about by additional employees being needed on the Prison ranch. Two Chaplains, one Protestant and one Catholic, have been appointed. Inmates formerly worked in the Bureau of Identification and Investigation. These have been replaced by civilians.

In a given year (average) in the past quarter century 600 inhabitants of Montana either entered or left the State Prison. From 1930 to 1954 a total of 7,486 prisoners have been released from the Prison, either on parole or by expiration of sentences. Of this total number 53.5 per cent were released on parole and 46.5 per cent through completion of sentence.

In 1950 of the total men committed to the Montana State Prison, 85 per cent were committed for crimes against property, and 15 per cent for crimes against persons. Of the offenses listed, Burglary ranked first with 107, or 26 per cent of the total number. Larceny ranked second with 83 and forgery

fell in third place with 82 offenders. Only one man was sentenced for murder in 1950. From 1930 to 1956 six men have been executed in Montana (in the Counties in which their crimes were committed), but none since 1944.

Up to June 1, 1956 a total of 17,680 inmates had been admitted to Montana State Prison, which means that more than the total combined population of Deer Lodge, Hamilton, Glendive, Cut Bank, Ekalaka and Columbus (Montana Cities and Towns) have passed through the Prison gates.

Upon arrival at the Prison a new inmate is received in much the same manner as a patient is received at a hospital. He is required to bathe and shave, and is given a complete outfit of clothing, shoes, safety razor, towels, etc. Immediately after being assigned to a cell his case history is taken for the records. In about two weeks he is generally assigned to a job in one of the work shops within the walls.

The work that the inmate will do is determined after an examination of his history. An effort is made to fit him in a job for which he shows aptitude; for instance, a plumber by trade would most likely be given a place in the prison plumbing shop, a carpenter would be placed in the wood working shop. By following this plan the inmates are placed in a position wherein they can do their best work and at the same time teach others who might desire to learn that particular trade.

During the first days in Prison the new inmate is given a physical examination, a blood test is taken, and his teeth are examined. Later, from this record, the prison physician can determine the necessary courses of treatment or can determine what corrective measures should be employed. The Prison hospital is always available for inmates requiring its facilities.

A typical day in the life of an inmate inside the walls would be as follows:

7:30 A. M. Rise and dress
8:00 A. M. Breakfast
8:30 A. M. Go to place of employment
11:30 A. M. Lunch
12:30 P. M. Go to employment
3:30 P. M. Exercise and recreation

4:45 P. M. Dinner
5:15 P. M. Locked in cell for the night
9:30 P. M. Lights out

During the evening hours a master-radio is played for the benefit of all inmates, each inmate has his own ear-phones in order that excessive noise may be eliminated that would otherwise disturb those who prefer reading, studying, etc. Inmates pursue their hobbies, which consist of leather work, hair-belt making, etc. Books are provided by an excellent Library and much time is spent reading. All of the leading magazines are available to the inmates. Games such as Chess, Checkers, Dominoes and other similar games are provided.

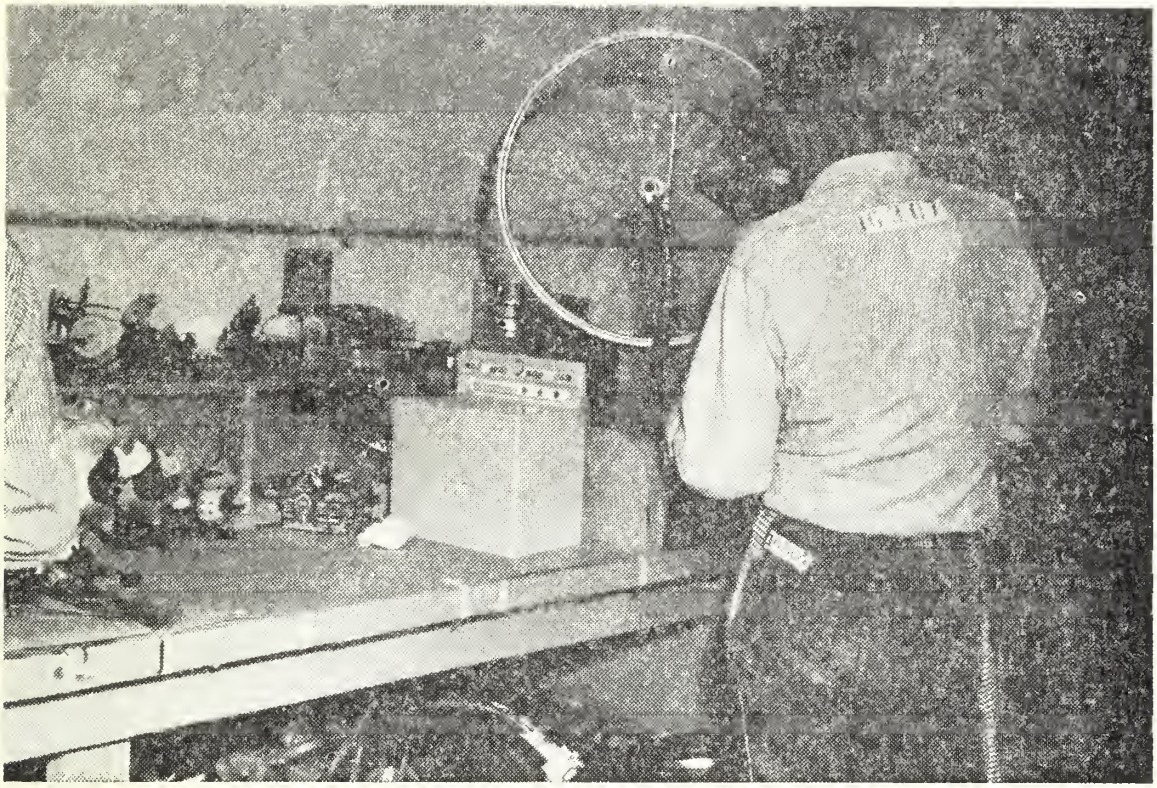
The Montana State Prison is fortunate in respect to having a fine band. A large sized band is usually on hand and provides a vocation for those musically inclined. Most of the men joining the band have had no knowledge of music prior to their arrival at the prison. A very well qualified instructor is provided and at various times during the year concerts are open to the public. At the present time the number of inmates in the band are at a minimum due to renovation of the theatre.

There are many industries located both inside and outside the prison walls. The toy department inside the walls employs a large number of inmates. This department receives and repairs thousands of toys from all over the State. These toys are repaired and re-distributed to underprivileged children throughout the State at Christmas time.

The largest number employed is in the license plate factory where all of the license plates issued by the State of Montana are made. These plates are stamped from steel, embossed with numbers, painted and packed ready for immediate delivery when the new year begins. We have on order new machinery for dipping and baking the license plates.

Also inside the walls is the Prison culinary department which includes the cooks, bakers butchers, dining room waiters and dishwashers. Recently a new revolving type oven has been placed in the bakery.

Other departments inside the walls are the garment factory, where all clothing worn by the inmates and officers uni-



TOY SHOP

forms are manufactured; the laundry and maintenance department which includes the electricians, plumbers and carpenters, the garden crew in summer, snow shovelers in winter, and those who keep the entire institution in condition.

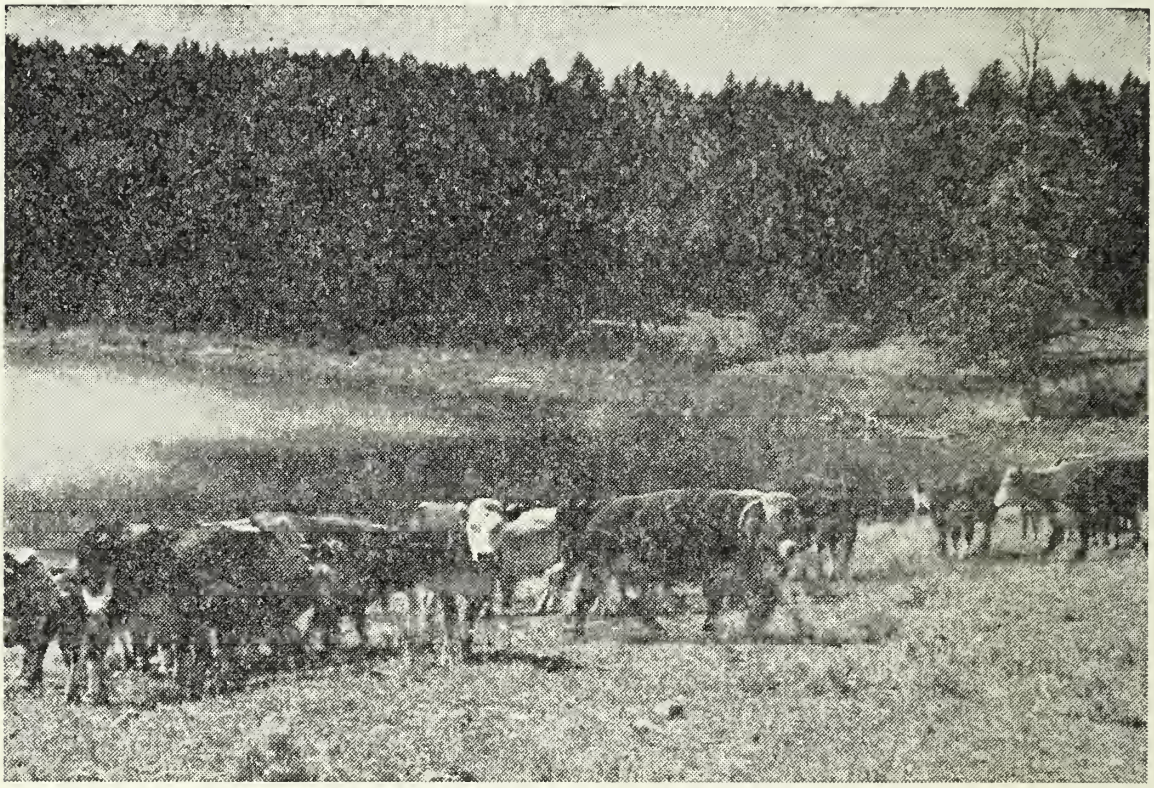
The shoe shop manufactures all the shoes worn by inmates in the prison and can average about 8 pairs of shoes per day. Besides shoes for the Prison, shoes are sometimes manufactured for other State institutions. Recently a new stitcher and finisher were purchased to replace outdated equipment which had been in use for many years.

On an average, approximately 225 men are employed as trusties outside the walls. When, in the opinion of the Warden, an inmate has proven himself to be trustworthy, he may be sent outside of the walls to trusty quarters where a new and more civilian-like life becomes his lot. The trusties live in dormitories and have much longer hours of freedom each day. They spend their working hours, for the most part, on the farms and ranches owned and operated by the State near Deer Lodge.

In a recreational light, one of the main interests of the

trusties is the prison soft ball team which each year competes with teams from all over this area of the State. Needless to say; our games are played at home. Players are selected on a competitive basis and are directed by an officer of the prison.

Trusties have their own kitchen and dining room outside the walls. Adjacent to the trusties' kitchen is the kitchen and dining room for the officers who must necessarily eat at the Prison. Officers Quarters are located in a separate building across the Street from the Prison garage.

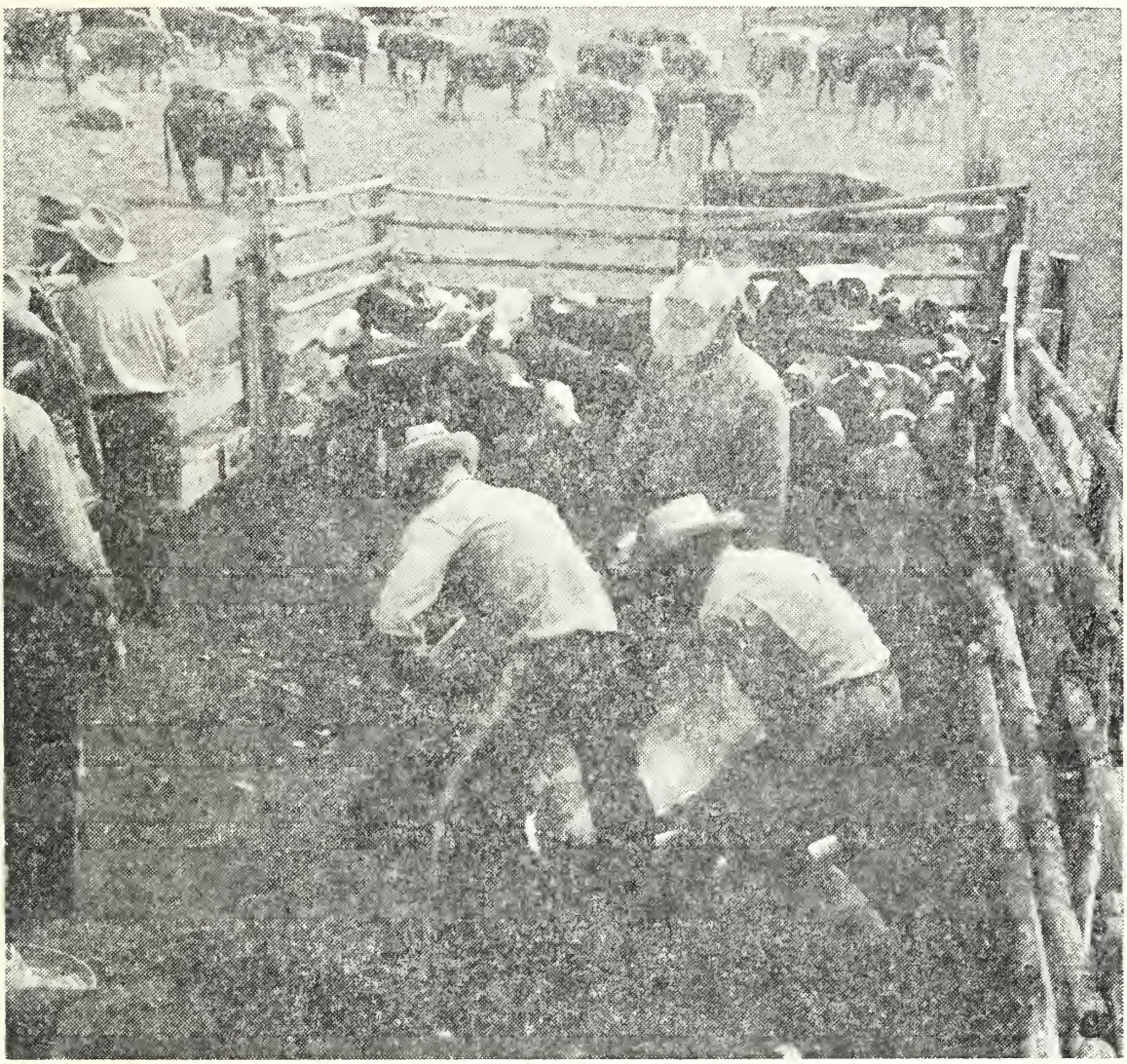


RANGE CATTLE BY HAGGIN RESERVOIR

In 1953 Prison Ranches No. 1 and No. 2, comprising 33,076 acres were purchased, which, combined with the Dairy Ranch No. 3, and the Poultry Ranches, No. 5 and No. 7, make a total acreage of 33,735.06 acres owned or being purchased by the Prison. In addition, the 618.93 acre Hog Ranch No. 4, owned by the State Highway Department is leased and operated by the Prison.

The ranches, under supervision of a Ranch Superintendent, and Ranch Foremen are staffed by trusties, and produce much of the food needed by the institution. A large dairy herd pro-

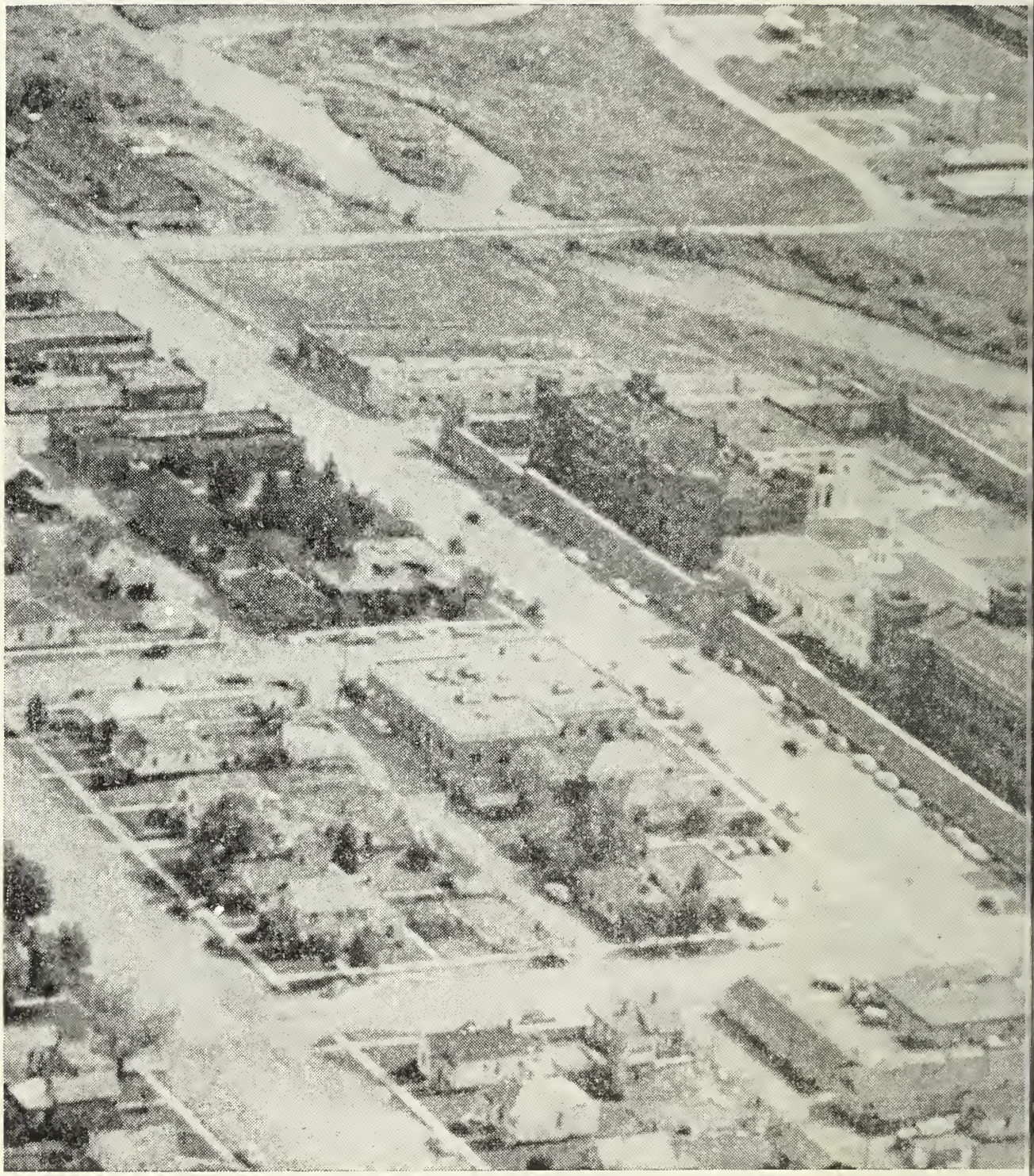
duces enough milk, cream and butter for all our requirements. We also supply the State Tuberculosis Sanitarium at Galen with milk and cream. A new homogenizer has been recently purchased and a used ice cream machine with two freezing cabinets was obtained for use in the Prison creamery. All milk is homogenized and we can make about 65 gallons of ice cream at one freezing. Butter is served to all trusty inmates every meal, and in the dining room inside the walls, butter is served twice a week for breakfast. There is ice cream at least once a week for all.



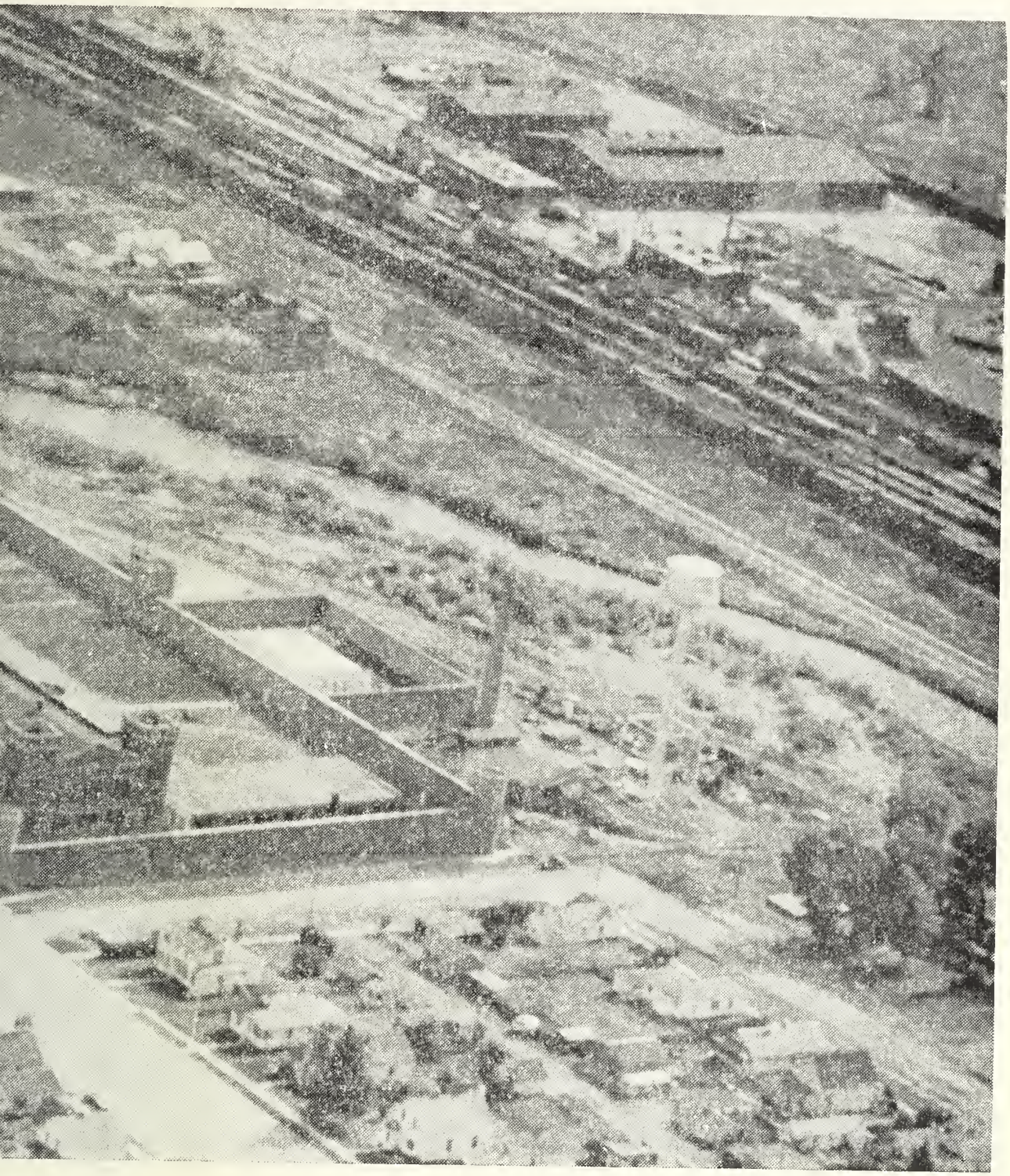
BRANDING

In June, 1956, cattle were inventoried at 2,533 head, a gain of 1,481 head in three years. The Prison has over a thousand head of hogs. An average of 12 sows are farrowed

AERIAL VIEW OF MON



TANA STATE PRISON



every month. This gives a meat supply throughout the year. No beef has been purchased for institution use since September 1, 1953 and no pork since December 1953.

CALVING

We buy 1,200 little chickens every three months. This gives us about five hundred pullets starting to lay every three months, which produce about enough eggs for institutional use. Each spring 1,000 young turkeys are purchased. Of this number we usually raise about 850 to 900 birds. Enough turkeys are raised to have an ample supply for use for Thanksgiving, Christmas and three or four other days during the year. Some are also supplied to other State institutions.

Livestock feed, including hay and grain, are produced on the Prison ranches. Potatoes and other vegetable and root crops used at the institution are also grown by trusties under supervision of prison officers.

Trusties classfied for minimum security live on the ranches, and are not locked up at night. Each has its own bunkhouse, dining room and kitchen. Trusties are brought in to the main Prison on Sundays to attend Church, movies and soft ball

games which are held on Sunday afternoons during the softball season.

During the fiscal year 1953-54 sixteen men escaped. During fiscal year 1954-55 there were 456 men who could have walked away, 17 did. In 1955-56 fiscal year a total of 548 men worked as trusties during the year, and could have walked away, only four did so. We believe that the new parole law and more work on the ranches have helped to reduce the number of escapes.

There are moose, elk, antelope and deer to be seen on the Prison Ranches. Hunting of wild game on Prison land, west of Bonneville Power lines, is permitted in season upon proper application for permit.

An effort is being made by Prison officials to build up the herds of wild game, and by actual count 276 head of elk were wintered on the Prison Ranch in 1955-56.

Three moose were killed unlawfully in 1954 and in the spring of 1955 several antelope were killed unlawfully. Firearms are now prohibited on prison property east of Bonneville Power Line. It is hoped that no more game will be unlawfully killed, and that the herds will be permitted to increase.

About twenty trusties are assigned to work in the Registrar of Motor Vehicles department doing clerical and filing work. This provides men with an excellent opportunity to familiarize themselves with State administrative work.

The power plant on prison property is also staffed by inmates under a civilian Chief Engineer. This plant is made up of the various maintenance shops.

Through work assignments many men are learning trades under salaried civilian help or highly competent inmates. A great deal is yet to be done in the line of educating and training inmates. At the present time they are learning much that can assist them when they leave the institution. Some of the trades at which men are working and learning are as follows: welding, electrical work, automobile and tractor mechanics, plumbing, painting, tin shop work, printing, machinist, sheet metal work, cooking, baking, typing, bookkeeping, general of-

fice work, laundry, butchering, store clerking, cleaning and pressing, clothes cutting and making, shoe making, masonry, carpentry, plastering, powerhouse maintenance, gardening, doctor's assistant, and dental assistant.

Most of the men leaving the shoe shop have ~~thoroughly~~ learned a trade and a surprisingly large number of these men take up shoe repairing in civilian life.

Inmates outside the walls are learning livestock, poultry and hog raising, grain farming, irrigating, dairying, creamery operation, gardening and hot house work.

One of the most constructive lines of endeavor is the leather work carried on by the inmates. They purchase their own leather and materials, set their own prices on the finished articles and receive all of the profit on their own work. A 10 per cent handling charge is added to the price of all finished merchandise which revenue is placed in the welfare fund for the inmates. This fund provides money for the purchase of athletic equipment and for other special activities.

All book binding and book repair work is done by the inmates. The Prison Library is operated the same as the library in any town or city. Each inmate has a card and may draw books and magazines and take them to his cell. Many books for the library are contributed by a few of the public libraries located in Montana towns and cities, and by individuals.

The Montana State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation is located at the Montana State Prison. This bureau keeps all criminal records for the State, publishes a weekly police bulletin, keeps all of the prison records, maintains a record of all suspended sentences given in the state, files all fingerprints for Montana, and exchanges fingerprints with sixteen various law enforcement departments and penal institutions. This Bureau performs numerous other tasks for the law enforcement officers of Montana. Teletype and short wave radio facilities are in use in this department.

Women committed to Montana State Prison are confined in what is known as the Women's Quarters, which is separate and apart from the men's section. This building is enclosed in a separate walled enclosure adjacent to the main Prison wall.

The average number of female inmates is 7. The largest number since 1950 was 12, the smallest number 4.

The Women's Quarters consists of kitchen, dining room, laundry, bath, adjacent rooms for sleeping quarters, and other necessary facilities.

The Matron accompanies the women inmates when they are being visited, attending Church services or movies. Immediately thereafter they are returned by the Matron to their quarters.

The women sometimes make garments for other State institutions, and assist with the toy project by making doll clothing, and dressing dolls.

Visiting hours for inmates are divided between two days. On Fridays from 1:30 to 3:00 P. M. men behind the walls are allowed to have approved visitors for a twenty minute period. The trusties are allowed visits on Sunday between the hours of 12 o'clock noon and 3:00 P. M. Regular tours of the Prison are conducted on Sunday afternoon between 1:30 and 3:00 o'clock P. M.

Church services, both Protestant and Catholic, are held every Sunday for those wishing to attend. The Chaplains also do counseling on Thursdays and Saturdays. On Sunday morning a movie is shown to all inmates.

Operation of the State owned Ranch has, we feel, been very worthwhile, and has done much to reduce operation costs.

The ten year average costs including 1953-1954 was $1.93 per man per day, and for the fiscal year, 1954-1955, it was reduced to $1.56. Everyone knows that costs were higher in 1954-1955 than during the ten year period. Reduction in cost per man per day is chiefly due to increased ranch production. All employees with service of one year or more have received $55.00 increase in pay per month.

Prisons are a necessary part of our society. There are individuals who repeatedly violate the laws of our State, individuals who cannot conform with the laws passed by the people of Montana. These individuals are necessarily incarcerated in the state Prison for the protection of society as a whole. There

are those who have violated the law perhaps one time, but are sentenced to Prison for this violation. There are many of the offenders who, if given a chance, after their release from Prison, will become good citizens, a great many of them have. Society, we believe, owes these men a chance to prove that they can make good, that they can become useful citizens, and that they do not have to be a burden on the taxpayers, because many times society has not given them the chance to show that a previous violation of our laws has not made them an habitual criminal. The people, as a whole, can do much as members of society, in helping these men to attain success.

Blood drawings are held regularly at the Prison. Many inmates, even though confined, show a good public spirit. They are liberal blood donors, a number of them being gallon donors. This spirit is evidenced in other ways,

Each year Christmas trees are furnished for the Hospital, all Churches in Deer Lodge who desire them, as well as for Prison employees. Trees and wreaths, made by the inmates, for street decorations are also provided.

We now have a canteen where all inmates may buy cigarettes, candy and similar items. Formerly two or three inmates operated concessions. Under the present system all profit from sales in canteen is placed in the inmate welfare fund, which is used for shows, athletic equipment, some library books, teeth and glasses.

At the close of 1955 a total of 185,069 prisoners were serving sentences in State and Federal Prisons and Reformatories in the United States. This number marked the highest prison population since the uniform series was initiated at the close of 1939. Though the 1955 year end count of prisoners was at an all time high, it was greater by only 1.7 per cent, or 3,018 prisoners, than the 182,051 confined a year earlier. Thus, 1955, marked a decline in the rate of increase of the prison population which began with 3.2 per cent in 1953 and 5.4 per cent in 1954.

Thirty-three states and the District of Columbia had increases in prisoners confined. Only three, however, New Hampshire, New Mexico and Florida showed relatively substantial increases, 17.2, 15.1 and 11.2 per cent respectively. Montana

registered the greatest percentage of drop in prisoners confined, 21.5. The decrease in Montana can be attributed to an increased number of releases, especially by parole.

We have plans to build a medium security prison on the new prison ranch property. A new well has been completed except for installation of pump,, a new slaughterhouse and new water tank are under construction. When plans are carried out overcrowded conditions at the Prison will be eliminated, which would be beneficial to the inmates as well as the officers.

In a simple manner, the preceding pages have attempted to tell you the story of Montana State Prison. However, much more time and many more pages would be required to give you, the public, a full vision of life behind prison walls. There are still many more chapters to be written. Great strides and improvements have been made and still more progress will be made.

For as long as time, men have and will continue to commit violations of our laws. Therefore, we attempt to help rehabilitate the men for their re-entrance into society, so that they may lead a normal honest life.

MONTANA STATE PRISON WARDENS

NAME	DATES
FRANK CONLEY	Warden of Territorial Prison before Montana became a State, and after Statehood until April 17, 1921
M. W. POTTER	April 1921 - June 1924
J. W. COLE	June 1924 - March 1925
AUSTIN B. MIDDLETON	March 1925 - March 1937
THEODORE R. BERGSTROM	March 1937 - March 1941
DUDLEY JONES	March 1941 - Dec. 1942
JOHN E. HENRY	Dec. 1942 - March 1949
LOU BOEDECKER	March 1949 - March 1953
F. O. BURRELL	March 1953 - Present time

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